Los Angeles Mission College hosted its first “Fall Kickoff” on Wednesday, August 21 as a part of the Achieving the Dream Initiative on campus. All registered students, new and returning, were invited to attend the event which ran from 9:00am-1:30pm on the main campus. More than 350 students participated along with over 50 faculty, staff and student volunteers, representatives from campus programs, clubs, facilities and 4-year universities. In addition to taking tours, attending orientations, workshops and presentations, students also had the opportunity to buy their books and parking passes, get their student IDs and pay fees before the semester began so they would be ready for classes the next week. Free lunches and raffle prizes added to the fun!

Students arrived at 9:00 and were welcomed by the College President and VPs, then they were escorted on a tour of the campus.

Students had the opportunity to attend an orientation for either new students, continuing students, or ESL students. Attending an orientation is one of the three new state requirements for SB1456 which also includes assessment and Student Educational Planning. Students who complete an orientation, assessment and Student Ed Plan will be eligible to have an earlier registration date beginning in Fall 2014, so the attendees of the Kickoff got to complete one of these necessary steps before school began!

Achieving the Dream Team Members

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After the orientations, students attended a Student Success workshop which gave them great tips on how to succeed in college, a quick demonstration on how to access their new LACCD student emails, information on selections of major and career pathways, followed by a presentation on financial aid and scholarships.

Additional orientations were held for the Culinary Arts program, STEM program, and library. Representatives from UCLA and UC Berkeley, CSUN, and CSULA also gave presentations on transferring to their schools.

Faculty and staff set up booths in the campus center for students to get more information about the programs, clubs, and facilities on campus.

After the orientations, workshops and presentations, students exchanged their participation passports for raffle tickets and a lunch ticket. Students were treated to a free lunch on the quad prepared and served by our Culinary Arts department. Station 97.12 AMP Radio was on hand to fill the quad with music and vendors from Seven-Up and Gatorade provided sample sodas.

The raffle was an exciting event with 37 prizes including two $250 scholarships, a Kindle Touch, 2 gym memberships, many baskets and gift cards from the Student Store, shirts, backpacks, two free parking passes, and fast passes for some of the busiest lines on campus – counseling, financial aid, the student store, and the admissions office!

Students ended their day with a tour of the east campus facilities – Center for Math & Science and the Health, Fitness & Athletics Complex.

It was a great start to the Fall semester, and we hope that as a result of attending the Fall Kickoff, students will be more prepared and more successful along their journey with us at LAMC. Thank you to all who participated in making this event come to fruition. It was a collaborative effort that has inspired faculty and staff engagement with student success on our campus.

Student Success LIVES at LAMC!